

MemCons: At the Heyndrickx conference in Ghent, 20-23 May 1984

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These are some of the items I did not include in my Trip Report to SIPRI. See also the Black & Upshall memo.

- 1) Lois Ember had travelled with one of the US Army participants--Jack Daore of Ft Detrick (US Army Medical Bioengineering & D Lab), a New Zealander by birth and medically-trained in Britain--on the flight in, he not realising who she was. He said (she told me in confidence): "Mirocha is a charlatan" and Sharon Watson "an asshole". He also said that in his view Mesekson's YR work was becoming more plausible.
- 2) Sidell of Edgewood, who had been on the 1979 Lewis investigation, told Meselson that, while he had originally been convinced about the YR, now he wasn't so sure and had a lot of doubts about the strength of the USG case. He had been impressed by the Grant Evans book, which had led him to reconsider the refugee-interview data. His doubts were shared by working-level people at both Edgewood and Detrick.
- 3) The South African general had evidently done a lot of homework on individual participants before attending the conference. He told us that in the last two years Mirocha had become a changed man, no longer doing good work. He was very soothing about Mirocha. Rosen he thought a "buffon".
- 4) According to one of the CW-defence people (one of the Dutchmen? or one of the Belgians?), a colleague of his had spent some weeks in Mirocha's lab and had observed gram quantities of trichoths sitting around.
- 5) Amos Townsend had now been fired, no longer being paid by the State Dept, which now had a professional team on the ground in Thailand collecting YR samples. State had been paying Townsend from a refugee fund; an account into which other parts of USG had probably been funnelling funds for the purpose.
- 6) Stuart Schwartzstein seemed to be distancing himself in public from the conference organizers. He denied any connection with the conference.
- 7) The Chinese participant--who thought I was a Robinson whom a colleague of his had met in China--told me that he didn't think trichoths would make good CW agents.
- 8) Huguette Cohen said over dinner that her government had denied her permission to present the negative findings from her analysis of the Chan Mann tissue samples. She saw no harm in withholding this information but presenting other information which supported Washington's case.
- 9) Cohen--who is a nasty piece of work, can't stand Greenhalgh.
- 10) Only a week before the conference had the Belgian Govt authorized Jan Willems and his people to visit Heyndrickx's lab. Willems has a very low opinion of Heyndrickx.
- 11) The Iranian Govt consistently refused permission for Western military medica--incl Willems--to examine the patients sent for European hospital treatment.